Condition of Traders

3838. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Trade in India shackled: ASSOCHAM" which appeared in the Hindu dated the 8th June, 2001;

(b) whether the State Government of West Bengal had also expressed apprehensions over the conditions of traders; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) A section of the article'Trade in India shackled: ASSOCHAM" refers to the study conducted by the ASSOCHAM on the trade sector. The Government have always been playing the role of a facilitator of trade and, over the period, have endeavored to simplify the tax procedures, reduced the discretionary powers of tax authorities and inspectors, and ensured easy availiability of credit to traders.

Export of Poor Quality Tea to Libya

3839. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO :Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India lost its tea export market in Libya due to allegedly substandard tea which was not fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry has been held in this matter;

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter against the erring persons; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that such things do not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Libya is not a stable market for Indian tea. Exports of tea to Libya during the last five years were as follows:—

Year	Quantity in m. kgs.
1996	0.05
1997	1.65
1998	6.98
1999	Nil
2000	3.63

Indian Embassy, Tripoli in the month of August 2000 informed about -supply of un-satisfactory quality of tea to NASCO (Libyan National Supply Corporation) by an Indian Exporter.

On receipt of such allegation against the Indian exporter, Tea Board issued show cause notice to the said Indian exporter for suspension/cancellation of Tea Exporter Licence under Tea (Distribution & Export) Control Order, 1957. Tea Board also advised the Indian exporter to send their representative to Tripoli to sort out the problem directly with NASCO.

Tea Board has recently introduced a voluntary scheme for firms of importing countries desiring to have quality checks through agencies appointed by Tea Board.

Air Cargo Arrangements For Export of Fruits

† 3840. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Commerce has sent any proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for making air-cargo arrangements for exporting fruits and vegetables produced in Bihar;t

(b) if not, whether it is contemplating to make any such request; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) There has been no specific request for making air cargo arrangements for exports of fruits from Bihar.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.